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Louisiana Crop Acreage

Wet weather in March followed by a period of six weeks in May and early June with almost no rain for many areas in the state forced a large number of producers to alter their planting intentions. As of June 1, Louisiana's planted acres decreased for all major crops from 2002 with the exception of cotton and soybeans.

Sugarcane acreage for harvest is estimated at 490,000, down 5,000 acres from the previous year. Louisiana continues to lead the nation in harvested sugarcane acreage.

Cotton planted acreage is expected to increase to 550,000 acres, up 30,000 acres from last year and 20,000 acres above the March 1 estimate.

Rice planted acreage is expected to drop 70,000 acres to 470,000 acres, 13 percent fewer than last year. Of this total, long grain varieties will represent 460,000 acres or 98 percent, while medium grain varieties will represent the remaining 10,000 acres or 2 percent. This will be the fewest acres of rice planted in the state since 1987 when there were only 425,000 acres.

Soybean planted acreage is expected to total 900,000 acres, 110,000 more acres than last year and 50,000 acres above the March 1 intentions estimate. This will be the third consecutive year Louisiana's soybean planted acres have increased.

Corn planted acreage, at 500,000 acres, is down 20,000 acres from the March 1 intentions estimate and down 80,000 acres from 2002.

Sweet potato planted acreage, at 18,000 acres, is down 3,000 acres, 14 percent below a year ago. Louisiana's planted acres for sweet potatoes have not been this low since 1993 when there were only 17,000 acres.

Grain sorghum planted acreage, at 170,000 acres, is down 10,000 acres, 6 percent below last year.

An estimated 150,000 acres were planted to **winter wheat**, down 80,000 acres from 2002. As of June 29, 100 percent of the Louisiana winter wheat crop had been harvested.

All hay harvested is estimated at 400,000 acres, down 50,000 acres from 2002.

United States Crop Acreage

Corn: The 2003 corn planted area for all purposes is estimated at 79.1 million acres, virtually unchanged from 2002 but 4 percent above 2001. Growers expect to harvest 72.0 million acres for grain, up 4 percent from the 2002 drought-reduced crop. Farmers responding to the survey indicated that 95 percent of the intended corn acreage had been planted at the time of the interview compared to an average of 96 percent for the past 10 years.

All Cotton: The United States planted area for all cotton in 2003 is estimated at 13.9 million acres, down fractionally from last year. Upland cotton acreage totaled 13.7 million acres, virtually unchanged from 2002. By early April, planting was well underway in California, Arizona, and the southern areas of Texas. Growers were planting their fields to upland cotton in nearly all growing areas by the third week of April. Only North Carolina and Virginia producers were delayed an additional week. By the end of May, 82 percent of the acreage had been planted, 3 percentage points behind the 5-year average.

Rice: Area planted to rice in 2003 is estimated at 2.99 million acres, 8 percent below last year's acreage. Area for harvest is estimated at 2.97 million acres, 7 percent below a year ago. Long grain planted acreage, representing 78 percent of the total is down 8 percent from last year. Medium grain planted acreage, representing 21 percent of the total, decreased 6 percent from 2002, while area planted to short grain varieties decreased 15 percent and represents 1 percent of the total rice acres planted in 2003. As of June 22, five percent of the rice crop was headed compared with 7 percent for the 5-year average.

Sorghum: Area planted to sorghum in 2003 is estimated at 9.48 million acres, down 1 percent from 2002. Area harvested for grain is estimated at 8.12 million acres, up 11 percent from last year's drought-reduced harvest. Kansas, with 3.70 million acres, continues to lead the Nation in sorghum area. All states experienced a slow start to planting, but midwestern states were most affected by the spring precipitation. By June 1 sorghum was 56 percent planted, the same as last year but 5 percentage points behind the 5-year average. Only Arkansas, Colorado, and South Dakota were ahead of the 5-year average planting pace.

June 1, 2003 - Planted Acreage

Crop	Louisiana			United States		
	2002	2003	% Change	2002	2003	% Change
	-----Thousand Acres-----			-----Thousand Acres-----		
Corn	580	500	-14	79,054	79,066	--
Upland Cotton	520	550	+6	13,714	13,748	--
Rice	540	470	-13	3,240	2,992	-8
Sorghum	180	170	-6	9,580	9,477	-1
Soybeans	790	900	+14	73,758	73,653	--
Sweet Potatoes	21	18	-14	97.2	94.0	-3
Winter Wheat	230	150	-35	41,735	44,349	+6
Hay ¹	450	400	-11	64,497	64,379	--
Sugarcane ^{1,2}	495	490	-1	1,023.2	995.0	-3

¹Harvested acres.

²For sugar and seed.

Nebraska, at 55 percent complete, was 16 points behind the 5-year average. During midmonth, planting advanced as drier weather prevailed. By June 22, planting was only 3 points behind last year and 6 points behind the 5-year average. Nebraska was 98 percent complete and Kansas was 89 percent complete, both slightly behind normal. Texas sorghum was 41 percent headed, 3 points behind the average.

Soybeans: The 2003 soybean planted area is estimated at 73.7 million acres, down 105,000 acres from last year, and – if realized-- the lowest planted area since 1998. This is the third consecutive year that soybean planted acres have declined in the United States. Area for harvest is estimated at 72.7 million acres, up 1 percent from 2002.

Sweet potatoes: Planted area of sweet potatoes is estimated at 94,000 acres for the 2003 season, down 3 percent from last year and 5 percent below two years ago. Harvested area is forecast at 91,000 acres, a gain of 9 percent from last year's hurricane damaged crop, but 4 percent below 2001. Harvested acreage increases are expected in Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi, and North Carolina. Eight of the nine producing states in the estimating program are either at or below last year's planted acreage level. Only North Carolina has more planted acres than last year.

Winter Wheat: The 2003 winter wheat planted area, at 44.3 million acres, is 6 percent above last year but virtually unchanged from the previous estimate. Area harvested for grain is estimated at 36.5 million acres, up fractionally from the June 1 forecast and 23 percent above the 2002 total. Small planted acreage increases (relative to the previous estimate) in California, Nebraska, Nevada, and South Dakota offset declines in Arkansas, Louisiana, and Tennessee. Montana's harvested area increased 50,000 acres from the June forecast, as spring rainfall has been above normal. Harvested acreage declined in Texas where continued dry weather from early February until late May led to more abandonment than previously expected. Minor adjustments, both increases and decreases, were made in several other states.

Hay: Producers expect to harvest 64.4 million acres of all hay in 2003, slightly below 2002. Alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures are estimated at 23.5 million acres, up 2 percent from last year. All other hay is estimated at 40.8 million acres, down 1 percent from last year, when Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) land was released for hay harvest.

Sugarcane: Area for harvest as sugar and seed during the 2003 crop year is estimated at 995,000 acres, 3 percent below last year. Acreage reductions occurred in all producing states, with Florida showing the largest decline.

June 1, 2003 Grain Stocks

Item	Louisiana ¹		United States	
	June 1		June 1	
	2002	2003	2002	2003
	-----Thousand Bushels-----		-----Thousand Bushels-----	
Corn				
On Farm			2,020,600	1,620,200
Off Farm ²	7,848	9,864	1,576,290	1,364,476
TOTAL			3,596,890	2,984,676
Sorghum				
On Farm			17,300	11,150
Off Farm ²	3,895	1,688	88,178	70,744
TOTAL			105,478	81,894
Soybeans				
On Farm			301,200	272,500
Off Farm ²	3,094	3,809	383,721	329,830
TOTAL			684,921	602,330
All Wheat				
On Farm			216,830	132,110
Off Farm ²	3,042	2,291	560,282	359,611
TOTAL			777,112	491,721

¹Louisiana on-farm stocks and total stocks not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations..

²Includes stocks at mills, elevators, warehouses, terminals, and processors.

Louisiana Grain Stocks

Total off-farm **soybean** stocks were estimated at 3.81 million bushels, up 23 percent from a year ago.

Off-farm holdings of **corn** totaled 9.86 million bushels, up 26 percent from 2002.

All wheat off-farm stocks totaled 2.29 million bushels, compared to 3.04 million bushels in 2002.

United States Grain Stocks

Corn stocks in all positions on June 1, 2003, totaled 2.98 billion bushels, down 17 percent from June 1, 2002. Of the total stocks, 1.62 billion bushels are stored on farms, down 20 percent from a year earlier. Off-farm stocks, at 1.36 billion bushels, are down 13 percent from the previous year.

Soybeans stored in all positions on June 1, 2003 totaled 602 million bushels, down 12 percent from June 1, 2002. On-farm stocks totaled 273 million bushels, down 10 percent from a year ago. Off-farm stocks, at 330 million bushels, are down 14 percent from a year ago.

All wheat stored in all positions on June 1, 2003 totaled 492 million bushels, down 37 percent from a year ago. On-farm stocks are estimated at 132 million bushels, down 39 percent from last year. Off-farm stocks, at 360 million bushels, are down 36 percent from a year ago.

Grain sorghum stored in all positions on June 1, 2003 totaled 81.9 million bushels, down 22 percent from a year ago. On-farm stocks, at 11.2 million bushels, are down 36 percent from last year. Off-farm stocks, at 70.7 million bushels, are down 20 percent from last year.

Commercial Livestock Slaughter and Meat Production

Item	Louisiana					United States			
	April	May		January - May		May		January - May	
	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003
	-----Number, thousand head-----					-----Number, thousand head-----			
Cattle	1.1	1.4	1.2	6.9	6.1	3,146.6	3,248.4	14,505.6	14,566.2
Calves	0.8	0.7	0.7	3.7	3.8	78.0	76.3	398.4	417.5
Hogs	2.3	2.1	1.7	12.0	10.9	8,323.1	7,809.4	40,896.7	40,762.8
Sheep & Lambs	0.1	0.2	0.2	1.2	0.9	285.7	221.9	1,404.8	1,244.5
	-----Total live weight, thousand pounds-----					-----Total live weight, thousand pounds-----			
Cattle	1,027	1,154	1,043	6,007	5,444	3,847,942	3,922,833	17,998,214	17,980,865
Calves	398	358	370	1,839	1,920	25,745	26,130	129,661	136,334
Hogs	483	441	350	2,601	2,337	2,218,700	2,088,018	10,922,049	10,902,585
Sheep & Lambs	14	14	13	117	91	39,199	30,432	193,398	167,439
	-----Average live weight, pounds-----					-----Average live weight, pounds-----			
Cattle	909	815	885	871	892	1,223	1,208	1,241	1,235
Calves	487	507	504	497	505	330	343	326	327
Hogs	209	205	202	217	214	267	267	267	267
Sheep & Lambs	100	91	83	98	101	137	137	138	134
	-----Million pounds-----					-----Million pounds-----			
Red meat	1.3	1.3	1.1	7.0	6.4	4,017.3	3,943.1	19,179.9	19,065.7

Louisiana Livestock Slaughter

Commercial red meat production in Louisiana during May totaled 1.1 million pounds, down 15 percent from April and the previous year.

There were 1,200 head of **cattle** slaughtered during May, 100 head above April but 200 head below the previous year. Average live weight was 885 pounds, down 24 pounds from the previous month but 70 pounds above May 2002. Total live weight at 1.04 million pounds was 2 percent above the previous month but 10 percent below the previous year.

Calves slaughtered during May totaled 700 head, down 100 head from April but unchanged from the previous year. Live weight averaged 504 pounds, up 17 pounds from April but 3 pounds below a year ago. Total live weight at 370,000 pounds was down 7 percent from April but 3 percent above the previous year.

The number of **hogs** slaughtered during May totaled 1,700 head, down 600 head from April and 400 head below May 2002. Average live weight was 202 pounds, down 7 pounds from April and 3 pounds below the previous year. Total live weight was 350,000 thousand pounds, down 28 percent from April and 21 percent below a year ago.

The number of **sheep** slaughtered during May was 200 head, up 100 head from April and the same as the previous year. Live weight averaged 83 pounds, down 17 pounds from the previous month and 8 pounds below the previous year.

United States Livestock Slaughter

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.94 billion pounds in May, down 2 percent from the 4.02 billion pounds produced in May 2002.

May 2002 contained 23 weekdays (including one holiday) and 4 Saturdays. May 2003 contained 22 weekdays (including one holiday) and 5 Saturdays.

Beef production, at 2.36 billion pounds, was 1 percent above the previous year and a monthly record high for May. Cattle slaughter totaled 3.25 million head, up 3 percent from May 2002. The average live weight was 1,208 pounds, down 15 pounds from May a year ago.

Veal production totaled 15.8 million pounds, 2 percent above May a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 76,300 head, down 2 percent from May 2002. The average live weight was 343 pounds, up 13 pounds from May a year ago.

Pork production totaled 1.55 billion pounds, down 6 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 7.81 million head, 6 percent below May 2002. The average live weight was 267 pounds, the same as May a year ago.

Lamb and mutton production, at 15.2 million pounds, was down 22 percent from May 2002. Sheep slaughter totaled 221,900 head, 22 percent below last year. The average live weight was 137 pounds, the same as in May 2002.

January-May red meat production was 19.07 billion pounds, down 1 percent from 2002. Accumulated beef production was down 1 percent from last year, veal was up 5 percent, pork was unchanged from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down 13 percent.

Average Prices Received by Farmers

Item	Louisiana			United States		
	Entire Month		Preliminary	Entire Month		Preliminary
	June 2002	May 2003	June 2003 ¹	June 2002	May 2003	June 2003 ¹
	Dollars			Dollars		
Soybeans, per bushel	2/ 4.88	2/ 6.07	2/ 6.00	4.88	6.07	6.00
Rice, per cwt	4.08	4.78	4.91	3.92	4.58	4.63
Upland Cotton, per pound	.291	.446	3/ .438	.337	.456	3/ .435
Hay, all, baled, per ton	n/a	n/a	n/a	95.80	99.20	94.60
Beef Cattle, per cwt	48.20	49.50	50.10	64.00	75.50	75.30
Steers & Heifers, per cwt	70.50	75.30	77.00	66.90	79.50	79.20
Cows, per cwt	38.20	37.90	38.00	39.20	42.40	41.30
Calves, per cwt	84.80	88.40	91.00	96.50	100.00	102.00
Broilers, live, per pound	n/a	n/a	n/a	.320	.340	.360
Eggs All, per dozen	n/a	n/a	n/a	.621	.587	.678
Milk All, per cwt ⁴	n/a	n/a	n/a	12.37	11.94	11.56

¹Mid-month price.

²Insufficient sales to establish a price.

³Based on sales during the first half of the month.

⁴Before deductions for hauling and government withholdings. Includes bulk tank, quantity, and other premiums. Excludes hauling subsidies.

n/a = not available

United States Prices Received Index Unchanged

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in June is 106, based on 1990-92=100, unchanged from the May Index. Since last month, all commodity group indexes are unchanged or lower except for the fruits and nuts, meat animals, and poultry and eggs commodity groups. Lower prices for cantaloupes, onions, peaches, and strawberries offset higher prices for tomatoes, broilers, hogs, and eggs. The seasonal change in the mix of commodities farmers sell, based on the past 3-year average, also affects the overall index. Increased average marketings of wheat, grapes, hay and cantaloupes offset decreased marketings of oranges, tomatoes, strawberries, and sweet corn.

The preliminary All Farm Products Index is up 8.2 percent from June 2002. Higher prices for cattle, lettuce, hogs, and broilers more than offset lower prices for peaches, potatoes, sweet corn, and broccoli.

The Food Commodities Index, at 105, is unchanged from May but 9.4 percent above June last year.

Prices Paid Index Unchanged

The June Index of Prices Paid for Commodities and Services, Interest, Taxes, and Farm Wage Rates is 127 percent of the 1990-92 average. The index is unchanged from May but 3.3 percent above June 2002. Lower prices in June for hay and forages, nitrogen fertilizers, feed grains, and diesel fuel, offset higher prices for feed concentrates, feeder cattle, LP gas, and complete feeds.

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